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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/846,115	04/30/2001	Masayuki Chatani	375.14.01	5023

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EXAMINER

BAROT, BHARAT

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/846,115

Applicant(s)

CHATANI, MASAYUKI

Examiner

Bharat N. Barot

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 21-23 and 25-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 21-23 and 25-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

RESPONSE TO RCE

1. Amended claims 1-19, 21-23, and 25-37 remain for further examination.

The new grounds of rejection

2. Applicants' amendments and arguments with respect to claims 1-19, 21-23, and 25-37 filed on June 27, 2005 have been fully considered but they are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-19, 21-23, and 25-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dietz (U.S Patent No. 6,385,586).

Dietz's patent meets all the limitations for claims 1-19, 21-23, and 25-37 recited in the claimed invention.

5. As to claim 1, Dietz teach a method of modifying content data transmitted from a first computer to a second computer over a bi-directional communications network (see abstract; and figure 2), comprising: specifying content data output characteristics to be

associated with the content data upon output by the second computer; transmitting the content data from the first computer to the second computer over the bi-directional communications network; and altering the content data that is to be output by the second computer in accordance with the content data output characteristics specified through the first computer, the altering includes converting an audio component of the content data to text data, the text data being processed into converted text data, and the converted text data being synthesized into audio data (figures 2-3; and column 5 line 40 to column 6 line 62).

6. As to claim 2, Dietz teach the steps of: receiving the content data in the first computer; and outputting the altered content data from the second computer (column 3 line 61 to column 4 line 6; and column 4 lines 30-42).

7. As to claim 3, Dietz teach that the content data output characteristics include location information of the first and second computers, the location information affects the altering of the content data (column 4 lines 30-64).

8. As to claims 4-5, Dietz teach that the received content data comprises voice data input into the first computer; and the altered content data being transmitted for output through speakers coupled to the second computer (figure 1; and column 3 line 44 to column 4 line 64).

9. As to claim 6, Dietz teach that the content data output characteristics include at least one of character gender, character condition, character environment, and language (column 4 lines 30-64).

10. As to claims 7-8, Dietz teach that the content data output characteristics are defined by input received by the first computer through a user interface; and the content data output characteristics are defined by input received by the second computer through a user interface (figure 1; and column 3 line 44 to column 4 line 30).

11. As to claim 9, Dietz teach that the content data output characteristics are stored in a database residing in memory storage coupled to the second computer (column 4 line 65 to column 5 line 39).

12. As to claim 11, Dietz teach that the first and second computers are coupled to audio speakers, and wherein the content data output characteristics comprise an audio output ratio for outputting content data from the audio speakers (figure 3; and column 6 lines 24-34 and 55-63).

13. As to claims 12-13, Dietz teach that the location information for the first and second computers are respectively obtained from the first and second computers and determined by the physical location of the first and second computers (column 4 line 30 to column 5 line 39).

14. As to claims 10 and 31, they are also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claims 1-9 and 11-13 above.

15. As to claims 14-19, 21-23, and 25-29, they are also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claims 1-13 and 31 above, since claims 14-19, 21-23, and 25-29 are merely an apparatus for the method of operation defined in the claims 1-13 and 31.

16. As to claim 30 it is also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claim 1 above, since claim 30 is merely an apparatus for the method of operation defined in the claim 1.

17. As to claims 32-37, they are also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claims 1-13 and 31 above, since claims 32-37 are merely an apparatus for the method of operation defined in the claims 1-13 and 31.

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered. The examiner has attempted to answer (response) to the remarks (arguments) in the body of the Office action.

Additional Reference

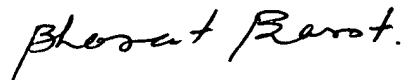
19. The examiner as of general interest cites the following reference.

- a. Horiguchi et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,282,507.

Contact Information

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Bharat Barot** whose Telephone Number is **(571) 272-3979**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Most facsimile-transmitted patent application related correspondence is required to be sent to the Central FAX Number **(571) 273-8300**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Saleh Najjar**, can be reached at **(571) 272-4006**.



**BHARAT BAROT
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Patent Examiner Bharat Barot

Art Unit 2155

September 14, 2005